



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIGEST

Internet Edition

Vol. 39, No. 6

'Courteous Vigilance'

June 2004



DPS' traveling billboard

DPS' new and innovative recruiting tool was on display last month at the Department's headquarters building in Phoenix. The large, luxury motorcoach features colorful graphics depicting the Arizona state flag and the DPS badge. Jumbo-sized text on the bus contains DPS' recruiting messages as well as a direct phone number to the agency's Human Resources Bureau. The charter bus will travel throughout the Southwest.

DPS hopes innovative, colorful bus will aid officer recruitment

Thanks to the hard work of many and several generous donations from three Arizona businesses, DPS now has a new and innovative recruiting tool.

It's a large, colorful motorcoach that will be used as a traveling "billboard" to get the word out to the public that DPS is actively recruiting and hiring new Highway Patrol officers.

Arrow Stage Lines, a well-known charter bus company, generously donated the use of the motorcoach to DPS while two other companies, Space-Rite Industries and CSI Graphics, helped attire the vehicle with colorful graphics and text.

Graphics on the motor coach depict the Arizona state flag and the DPS badge while large text on the vehicle makes it very clear

that DPS is looking to hire new Highway Patrol officers.

The message, which contains a direct phone number to DPS' Human Resources Bureau (HRB), is expected to reach thousands as the motorcoach travels throughout Arizona and the southwestern United States on its various chartered trips.

"With the difficulties DPS has been experiencing in recruiting enough qualified individuals to fill vacancies, this innovative approach should be of tremendous help," said Sgt. Mike Bonin, supervisor of DPS' Sworn Recruiting Section.

In just the two short months since the motorcoach has been outfitted with DPS' recruiting message, it has already proven to be an effective recruiting tool.

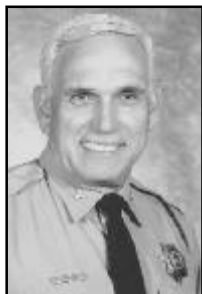
Bonin said that HRB has already received several phone calls from officer candidates who observed the bus and wanted additional information on how to become a DPS Highway Patrol officer.

Bonin said the Department decided to pursue the idea of turning a charter bus into a mobile recruiting tool after examining traditional recruiting methods such as billboard advertising only to find them too expensive.

Another factor that made placing a recruiting message on a motorcoach seem like a real possibility was the fact that Arrow Stage Lines was going to offer the use of one of its vehicles to DPS free of charge.

The generous offer from the well-re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



From Director Dennis Garrett's

Vantage Point

For far too many, the Fourth of July is just another summer holiday that provides a dim recollection of the American Revolution. Few realize what the "Fourth of July" really signifies – our declaration of independence from Great Britain which eventually provided the foundation for the creation of a nation based on a universal concept of freedom.

Unfortunately, for some, the most important aspect of our Independence Day is the three- or four-day weekend away from work – nothing more, nothing less.

At DPS, however, this upcoming holiday shouldn't be a time of such passiveness. It should serve as a vivid reminder just how fortunate we are to live in such a great country whose ideals are anchored by a sincere belief in democracy and the willingness to help other oppressed nations in their quests for a better life.

Closer to home, the death of Pat Tillman, a popular professional football player who played for the Arizona Cardinals, provided a recognizable face to the horrors of war. At DPS, most of us already understood the emotional realities of war when we had to say good bye to almost 30 DPS officers and civilian employees whose military reserve units were activated.

Many of these DPS military reserves spent more than a year in Iraq. Fortunately, all who have returned, returned safely and many are back at work making Arizona a better place.

Some DPS employees, however, remain in harm's way as the war in Iraq continues. Although thoroughly disconcerting and distressing, we anticipate additional DPS employees will be called to serve in the future as their reserve military units are activated.

All of our military personnel, including those who are sons and daughters of DPS employees, should remain forefront in our thoughts and prayers as we enjoy the upcoming holiday weekend festivities.

As for those who have returned in time to celebrate the "Fourth," we thank you for a job well done. Be proud of your service. We are proud of you. For those on active duty, keep up the good work and we look forward to your safe return.

Governor Napolitano appoints Juan Martin to LEMSC board



JUAN MARTIN

Although it's been almost 22 years since Juan Martin Jr. retired from DPS in 1983, he remains indebted to the Department.

"DPS was my career of choice. Everything else I have accomplished since retiring from the Department has been a matter of opportunity," Martin said. "Even though I have been gone longer from DPS than I served, the Highway Patrol and the Department remain very special to me."

So it was with pride that Martin accepted Gov. Janet Napolitano's appointment to serve on the Law Enforcement Merit System Council (LEMSC), a three-member

board that establishes and oversees all procedural activities within DPS and AZ POST (Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training).

With the appointment, Martin will complete the remaining three years on Jerry Landau's six-year appointment. By statute, Landau, who served with the LEMSC since June 1985, was required to resign from the board after declaring his candidacy for Maricopa County attorney.

After climbing the promotional ladder at DPS, Martin earned his final promotion when he advanced to lieutenant colonel in 1981. With this promotion, he immediately drew a "mobility" assignment as acting director at the Motor Vehicle Division within the Arizona Department of Transportation. Two years later, he retired from DPS and was appointed by Gov. Bruce Babbitt as the permanent MVD director.

In 1987, the Gilbert native left state government for the City of Phoenix where he was named the city's deputy director of Public Works, a position he held for the next seven years until he was promoted to director of Public Works.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10](#)

The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Training and Management Services Bureau for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail, EMS or Telephone (602-223-2313).

Dennis A. Garrett, Director
Art Coughanour, Publications Editor, acoughanour@dps.state.az.us
Jim Jertson, Publications Support Specialist, jjertson@dps.state.az.us

The Digest can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.dps.state.az.us/digest>.

*The Arizona Department of Public Safety
is an Equal Employment Opportunity Agency.*

10 become newest sergeants at Department of Public Safety

DPS Director Dennis Garrett elevated 10 officers to the rank of sergeant during promotional ceremonies May 11 at state headquarters in Phoenix.

Promoted were John D. Barber, Paul M. Forch, Steve M. Harrison, Kevin J. Jex, Sheila J. Markwell, John J. Ortolano, Michael L. Ransom, Christopher R. Romero, J. Wayde Webb and Kevin C. Wood.

Eight of the new sergeants will be assigned to the Highway Patrol (HP) while two others will work within the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

JOHN BARBER

Barber, who has received two Director's Unit Citations and a letter of commendation at the Department, began his DPS career in 1985. After graduating from the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA), Barber drew Goodyear as his first Highway Patrol assignment. With HP, he later handled assignments in Phoenix, Buckeye and Tucson. Barber also completed assignments with GITEM in Tucson and School Bus Inspections.

A graduate of Pima College, Barber also is a member of the Arizona National Guard and recently served in Iraq. In his new assignment, he will transfer to Williams.

PAUL FORCH

After Forch graduated from the academy in 1990, he was assigned to Black Canyon City as a Highway Patrol officer. In 1993, he transferred into Phoenix as a motorcycle officer. Three years later, he accepted an assignment into the Training Section as a defense tactics coordinator. In 1998, he moved into Criminal Investigations where he completed assignments with the General Investigation Unit, the Phoenix Interdiction Squad and Phoenix Narcotics.

With his promotion, Forch, who holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Nebraska, will be assigned to HP Phoenix Metro Central.

STEVE HARRISON

Harrison's career with DPS began in 1995. After completing the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA), the Connecticut native was assigned to the Highway Patrol's Metro East district. Two years later, the graduate of Rio Salado College transferred into the Vehicular Crimes Unit and remained there until 2003 when he was assigned to the Special Investigations Unit.

With his promotion, Harrison returns to the Vehicular Crimes Unit

KEVIN JEX

Before entering ALETA, Jex began his DPS career in 1988 as an officer trainee. Two years later, after graduating from

ALETA, Jex was assigned as a Highway Patrol officer to the Avondale/Buckeye area.

That assignment was followed by transfers into Phoenix Motors and GITEM. In 1995, Jex returned to the Highway Patrol with assignments in Flagstaff and Phoenix Metro West.

The Michigan native became a training officer at ALEA in 2001 which was followed by a transfer into Phoenix Narcotics.

As a HP sergeant, Jex will work in the Parker area.

During his career, Jex received an officer of the year award and two special accomplishment awards from the DEA. In 2000, he received a Director's Unit Citation from the Department and a Meritorious Service Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

SHEILA MARKWELL

Markwell, who drew Phoenix Metro East as her first assignment as a HP sergeant, began her career at DPS as a records clerk in 1982. As a civilian employee, she completed assignments as an ACJIS operations auditor, as a state controller of the ACJIS Uniform Crime Report, as a grant coordinator in the Director's Office, as an operations assistant in HP's District 9, and as a Special Services administrative assistant in the Highway Patrol.

She entered the academy in 1997 and upon graduation, the Minnesota native was assigned to Phoenix Metro East.

In 2001, the Phoenix College graduate who later graduated from Arizona State University with honors, transferred into the Agency Support Division as a liaison officer for Crime Victim Services. Three years later, she transferred into Asset Forfeiture.

While with DPS, Markwell received two Director's Unit Citations.

JOHN ORTOLANO

Ortolano's DPS career began in 1998 with an assignment as a Highway Patrol officer in Lake Havasu City. About a year later, the New York native transferred to Kingman where he will remain as a sergeant.

Ortolano, who has a bachelor of science degree in science engineering and instrumentation from Empire State College in Buffalo, served six years in the U.S. Navy and more than three years with the Arizona National Guard.

MICHAEL RANSOM

In 1987, Ransom graduated from ALETA and began his law enforcement career with the Highway Patrol in Winslow.

Three years later, he transferred into District 5, Phoenix, remaining in that post before leaving in 1997 for a position in the Director's Office as a legislative liaison. After completing that assignment, Ransom,

who has a bachelor of science degree in arts management, became an administrative officer in the Operations Division.

Later, he transferred into Human Resources as a sworn recruitment officer.

In 1999, the St. Louis native returned to the Highway Patrol as an officer with Phoenix Metro Central. With his promotion, Ransom will be assigned to the patrol in Holbrook.

CHRISTOPHER ROMERO

With his promotion to sergeant, Romero will transfer to Nogales where he will be assigned to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

Romero's career with the Department began in 1989 as a Highway Patrol officer in Sun City. Six years later, the Phoenix native became a HP motor officer.

Romero, who served four years in the U.S. Navy prior to DPS, moved into Criminal Investigations in 1995 where he completed assignments in liquor and narcotics. In 1998, he returned to the Highway Patrol where he received assignments with motors, Phoenix Metro East and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

During his career, Romero has been a member of two squads that received District Squad of the Year Awards.

WAYDE WEBB

Webb's career with the Department began in 1994 as an officer trainee in Kingman. In 1995, he became a cadet officer and after completing ALEA, was assigned to District 5, Phoenix.

In 1999, Webb was assigned to the Vehicular Crimes Unit where he was a member of the District Fatal Team. In 2000, he accepted an appointment into the Special Investigations Unit where he will remain as a sergeant.

Webb received a Director's Unit Citation while with the Major Crimes Investigations District. The Phoenix native also is a member of the CID Advanced Officer's Training Committee.

KEVIN WOOD

Upon graduation from the academy in 1979, Wood was assigned as a HP officer to Goodyear which was followed by a transfer to Sun City some four years later.

In 1984, the St. Louis native attended paramedic school. Two years later, he became part of Kingman Air Rescue.

In 1989, he accepted a transfer to Phoenix Air Rescue.

Six years later, the former U.S. Marine became a media relations officer within the Director's Office. A transfer into the Special Investigations Unit followed about a year later.

With his promotion, Wood will be assigned to Tucson GITEM with CID.

Retired Sgt. Randy Young has a vested interest in Iraqi war

If Randy Young could have his way, the retired DPS sergeant would easily trade places with his son, Wyatt, and a young man, Scott Harris, whom he helped raise.

But, he knows it's not possible for him to go to Iraq to replace the two loved ones. So, the Tucson native and resident found another way to support the United States war efforts in the liberation of Iraq.

It's also a venture that provides him a way to keep his mind from dwelling on the everyday dangers Wyatt and Scott encounter in the tumultuous war-torn Mideast.

Young's project sprung to life during a disappointing pre-Christmas phone call from Wyatt, a sergeant first class with the 1st Armored Division, one of the U.S. Army's most legendary fighting units.

At the time of the phone call, Young and his wife, Karyl, were expecting their son to return stateside sometime in January. During the course of the conversation, Wyatt, who was about to board a plane back to the U.S., was informed that his tour of duty in Iraq had been extended for the second time.

During this phone conversation, Wyatt relayed the bad news to his parents that he wasn't coming home any time soon. Wyatt also told his father that the demand for Kevlar body armor among U.S. forces far exceeded available supplies.

"He told me that the majority of U.S. military personnel didn't have body armor," Young said. "That got me thinking that rounding up some body armor from DPS officers and retirees would probably be a relatively simple thing to do. Heck, for starters, I had a set hanging in a closet."

As the project unfolded, finding and gathering used body armor from DPS officers and retirees proved to be somewhat easy. The difficult part, however, was weaving through numerous bureaucratic road blocks in order to get the bullet/shrapnel-resistant vests into the hands of U.S. troops in Iraq.

Young's venture began shortly after that disappointing phone call from Wyatt. With his thoughts on Wyatt and Scott, a U.S. Navy SEAL with SEAL Team 2, he launched his project.

"That night, I started gathering body armor," Young said. "Within days, I received six sets from friends, retirees and my brother (DPS Sgt. Ryan Young)."

The optimism generated by this promising beginning then bounced into the wall of bureaucracy.

"Before I got any further into this project, I thought it would be smart to check and make sure that there really was a need for this equipment," said Young who took a



Vest delivery

Officials with Iraqi police and U.S. military personnel watch the unloading of some body armor collected by retired DPS Sgt. Randy Young. Shortly after initiating the project, Young collected 119 used Kevlar vests from retired and current DPS officers. The vests were delivered to Iraqi police officers through arrangements made by the Fresno Police Officers Association with the U.S. Marine Corps.

medical retirement in 1993, ending a law enforcement career which began with the Department in 1977 as a highway patrolman.

"So, I started calling our congressmen. Unfortunately, not one called me back although I did receive a few phone calls from their staff members. This apparent lack of interest irritated me a bit so I called the Department of Defense."

Additionally, Young said he got the "run-around" from the Department of Defense (DOD) for about a month.

"At about this time, I started relying more on the Internet for information," the retired sergeant revealed. "The more articles I read, the more I was convinced that a problem

concerning vests did exist."

Armed with this knowledge, Young again called DOD to see what needed to be done in order to get used body armor into the hands of U.S. military personnel.

"The DOD eventually told me that they couldn't take the body armor because it was out of date and probably no good," Young explained.

Not to be deterred, Young said he again tried the offices of Arizona Senators John McCain and John Kyle along with Rep. Jim Kolbe, only to be disappointed again.

"I raised so much Cain with so many generals before I was led to the Civilian Pro-

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 12](#)

FOP #32 joins body armor collection effort

For DPS officers wanting to donate body armor for distribution in Iraq, retired DPS Sgt. Randy Young and FOP Lodge 32 have joined forces to make it possible.

Lynn Ideus, FOP president, says arrangements have been made with Supply to accept the vests.

Upon receipt of the vests, Supply per-

sonnel then will forward them to Young who will arrange for their transfer to Mike Harris, president of the Fresno Police Officers Association.

The vests need to be at Supply by June 20, said Sgt. Lynn Ideus, FOP president. For additional information, Ideus can be reached at 602-550-4302.



Shopping trip

Rad Kirchner, DPS Fleet Service manager, inspects a used computer monitor at State Surplus during one of his frequent visits to the 40,000-square foot facility in Phoenix. Kirchner has become an expert at turning another agency's trash into a DPS treasure. His efforts have probably saved the Department, and subsequently Arizona taxpayers, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Rad Kirchner's love for a good deal is a money-saver for DPS

Rad Kirchner, DPS Fleet Service manager, absolutely loves a good deal.

Whether the long-time DPS employee is shopping for a new pair of shoes on the weekend or helping DPS buy needed equipment, Kirchner hates to spend a penny more than necessary.

Thankfully, Kirchner's lifelong desire to uncover and take advantage of bargains along with his working knowledge of various types of products has greatly benefitted DPS over the years.

In fact, during the 24 years he has worked with the agency, his "bargain mentality" most likely has saved DPS, and subsequently Arizona taxpayers, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Nearly all the money Kirchner has helped DPS save over the years has been a direct result of his familiarity with and utilization of the state Department of Administration's Surplus Property Management Office, more commonly known simply as "State Surplus."

The large facility, located in a nondescript area near downtown Phoenix, is home to virtually every type of property, except for real estate, that the state believes is no longer needed.

Most property at State Surplus, which can consist of everything from service manuals to denim jeans to helicopters, has been turned in for disposal by state agencies, including DPS.

However, the 40,000-square-foot facility also accepts property from school districts, municipalities, fire districts and other

governmental subdivisions within the state.

Some of the seemingly "unloved" property that ends up in State Surplus can be repurchased and re-utilized within Arizona government. Property that does not get repurchased and re-utilized within government is auctioned to the public three times a year.

Kirchner, out of a pure desire to be fiscally responsible, has done a tremendous amount of work during the past 15 years or so transforming a great deal of the items that have been "exiled" to State Surplus into valuable, cherished assets at DPS.

In essence, Kirchner has consistently been able to find ways to turn another agency's trash into a DPS treasure.

Many of these efforts are generously contributed to DPS pro bono on top of his primary responsibilities as the Department's Fleet Service manager. In other words, he does a great deal of his work at State Surplus out of the kindness of his heart, not because it's a part of his job.

The dramatic cost savings that result from Kirchner's actions arise from the fact that the various items he helps DPS find and ultimately purchase from State Surplus cost the agency next to nothing because the facility is allowed to charge government agencies almost pennies on the dollar for its products.

In fact previously-owned products purchased at the facility by governmental agencies typically cost 95 percent less than new products would.

Many of the quality, reliable items

Kirchner has helped DPS locate and purchase from State Surplus have been desperately needed by the agency, especially during the past few years as DPS' tight budget has restricted some much-needed purchases.

Other items Kirchner has helped DPS find and purchase at State Surplus were not so desperately needed, but have made the jobs of some DPS employees much easier following their procurement.

"It takes just a bit of research and a few trips to State Surplus to personally sift through and inspect equipment, but a number of great items can definitely be found there," said Kirchner, who utilizes State Surplus more than any other DPS employee authorized to sign items into and out of the facility.

It is unknown exactly how much money Kirchner has saved DPS during the past 15 years or so utilizing State Surplus because comprehensive cost-savings statistics regarding such purchases were not maintained until a few years ago.

However, the figure could very easily top \$300,000 or \$400,000.

According to comprehensive statistics maintained during fiscal year 2003, Kirchner's ability to find needed items at State Surplus saved DPS about \$61,000 that year.

Among items Kirchner helped DPS find and obtain that year were 22 computers, nine printers, two back-up power generators and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Proud Moment

DPS Security Supervisor Richie Boland (center), who recently retired after 28 years of service, stands with his wife, Brenda, and Director Dennis Garrett moments after receiving the Department's prestigious Meritorious Service Award. Boland, who received the award from Garrett at his well-attended retirement ceremony April 22, was given the honor for his dedicated and "extremely vital service" to DPS during his career. Boland was recognized for being constantly proactive in protecting agency employees to assure their safety in the workplace. Boland's entire career at DPS was spent with Security.

DPS team captures fifth place at 'Desert Dog' police canine competition held in Scottsdale

A team of DPS officers assigned to the Department's Canine District proved to be among the best handlers in the nation.

The DPS group displayed its abilities at the highly-competitive "Desert Dog" police canine trials held late in April in Scottsdale.

The DPS team, which consisted of four officers and their canines, placed fifth overall in the competition featuring some 50 police dog teams from throughout the country.

Events included area and building searches, obstacle course maneuvering, tactical obedience, handler protection scenarios (bite work) and narcotic/explosive detection.

Results from individual competitions were tallied at the end of the trials to come up with team results.

One DPS team member, Marty Lepird, contributed greatly to the Department's success by placing high in several individual competitions.

Lepird and his canine partner, Barry,

took first place in handler protection, second in tactical obedience, third in tactical agility and fifth overall.

Also performing well was DPS Officer Chris Hemmen and his partner, Kyra, who captured first place in the area search competition. Another DPS team, Sgt. Angel Leos and his canine, Vero, contributed to the team's success by placing fourth in explosive detection.

The final DPS team, Det. Dave Blue, and his partner, Santo, proved themselves as a consistent, top-ranking pair in a number of individual events.

The competition was conducted with the cooperation of the Arizona Law Enforcement Canine Association (ALECA) in partnership with the Scottsdale, Mesa, Phoenix and Tempe police departments.

The DPS group was also recognized at a Department executive staff meeting conducted a few days after the competition.

12 employees on active military duty

In late May, a dozen DPS employees, mostly sworn officers, remained on active military duty as part of this country's continuing military operations in Iraq and other areas of the Middle East.

While most of the 12 have been gone from the Department and their families for many months, two, Officer Charles Decarolis and Personal Computer Specialist Chris Jones, were "called up" recently and have just begun their military assignments.

Two more DPS employees, Officers William "Dusty" Baker and Michael Fields, recently saw their military status reactivated despite completing lengthy military assignments within the past year.

DPS employees remaining on active military duty include DPS Cmdr. Jeff Raynor and Sgt. Bob Stout along with Officers Leon Dame, Russell Hamilton, Richard Stephens, Adam Mercier, Francis Ryder and James Congrove.

The number of DPS employees on active military duty has been steadily decreasing since last summer when more than 20 employees were "active" at the same time.

A number of DPS employees who completed military assignments have returned to work at the Department within the past few months, including Officers David Rush, Stephen Kafton, D.J. Hansen, Paul Etnire, Michael Dickinson, Kevin Bera, Ed Stock and Miguel Anguiano.

Rookie officer, partner seize 700 pounds of pot

Rookie DPS Highway Patrol Officer Tiffany Zenke was introduced into the world of drug trafficking in a big way during a May 17 traffic stop about 25 miles north of Phoenix on I-17.

Fellow Highway Patrol Officer David Porter and Zenke stopped a northbound mini-van towing a box trailer for an improper lane change. While approaching the vehicle, the two officers caught the strong odor of marijuana which led them to request the services of a Maricopa County Sheriff's Office canine team.

After the canine alerted to the vehicle, the officers searched the van and found 700 pounds of marijuana valued at close to \$1 million if sold on the street.

The vehicle and trailer were also seized.



A father remembered

Memorial services for fallen DPS officers were May 3 at state headquarters in Phoenix. Among those attending was Brayden Buckmister, 5, who kneels near his father's name engraved on the DPS Officer Memorial. Officer Brett Buckmister died March 21, 2000, in a traffic collision on U.S. 89 within the city limits of Page.

Retired DPS Officer Cecil Waddell dies

Cecil D. Waddell, 82, who retired from the Department Sept. 1, 1976, passed away April 19 in Peoria.

Services for the Holcumb, Miss., native were April 27 at Green Acres memorial Gardens in Scottsdale.

Prior to DPS, Officer Waddell worked at different times for the police departments in Buckeye and Phoenix. He left the Phoenix Police Department for a position with the state Department of Liquor Licenses and Control which became part of DPS in 1969.

At DPS, Officer Waddell, a former boxer who loved to paint, completed various assignments before retiring with Yarnell as his last patrol assignment.

One of his more memorable moments with DPS came May 24, 1972, while working in the Phoenix area as a patrol officer. While driving on West Van Buren Avenue near downtown Phoenix, he watched a man sprint to his vehicle after exiting a bank. As the motorist drove past Officer Waddell, he fired a shot with a pistol at the veteran patrolman who was in the process of running a registration check on the speeding vehicle.

The suspect then drove to a residential area before abandoning the vehicle. He then ran into a central Phoenix home where he demanded that the occupants give him clothes and their car keys.

Upon their arrival, Officer Waddell and other law enforcement officers were able to coax the couple safely out of their home before arresting the man while he was changing clothes.

Officer Waddell, who served with the U.S. Coast Guard prior to his career in law enforcement, is survived by eight children, 15 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and a brother.

The family requests contributions be made to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower, Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Flagstaff officers seize \$2 million in cocaine

Some \$2 million worth of cocaine and marijuana was intercepted May 1 during two different Flagstaff-area traffic stops involving commercial vehicles.

The first seizure occurred in East Flagstaff when Canine Officer Casey Kasun stopped a semi for equipment violations.

After establishing indicators of drug trafficking, Kasun's dog, Barry, alerted on the vehicle during a walk 'n sniff.

During the ensuing search, Kasun found 581 pounds of marijuana within a shipment of miniature motorcycles.

Kasun booked the driver and passenger

Ex-con gets 21-year sentence in shooting of DPS patrol officer

Aaron Brian Gunches, 32, an ex-convict who pled no contest to attempted first-degree murder in the shooting of DPS Highway Patrol Officer Robert Flannery, will be returning to prison after he was given a 21-year prison sentence by La Paz Superior Court Judge M. Burke.

Burke issued his decision on April 19. He also ordered Gunches, 32, upon completion of his prison sentence, to serve three years of community service. Additionally, the La Paz County judge instructed Gunches to pay \$300 in restitution to Flannery who was shot twice but not seriously wounded during the Jan. 15, 2003, traffic stop on Interstate 10 near Quartzsite.

The shooting occurred after Flannery stopped the vehicle Gunches was driving for a headlight violation. As Flannery was approaching Gunches' vehicle, the Mesa resident fired at least two shots at the Highway Patrol officer.

One round from Gunches' .380 semi-automatic pistol struck the Quartzsite-based patrolman in the bullet-resistant vest he was wearing while the second deflected off a watch the officer was wearing on his left wrist. Flannery was able to return fire with at least one round wounding Gunches.

After the exchange of gunfire, Gunches drove off, later abandoning his vehicle some 35 miles from the shooting scene. An intensive 16-hour manhunt followed before Gunches was located by a U.S. Border Patrol tracker.

DPS Detective John Bottoms, who investigated the shooting for the Department, said Gunches is scheduled to be extradited to Maricopa County where he faces first-degree murder charges.

of the vehicle. He also seized the tractor-trailer rig along with \$600 in cash.

About eight hours later that day, Highway Patrol Officer Anthony Gerard stopped another semi for equipment violations.

After receiving conflicting stories from the driver and passenger, Gerard asked and received consent to search the vehicle that was transporting produce.

Gerard said he found 26.5 pounds of cocaine hidden in the sleeper berth.

Gerard also impounded \$283 in cash and a 1999 Freightliner tractor-trailer rig.

It's off to Hawaii for retired 30-year DPS Pilot James Knapp

After more than 30 years of serving the people of Arizona as a helicopter pilot with DPS, James (Jim) Knapp has retired. Don't worry, though, the spirited Michigan-native and former U.S. Army helicopter pilot has not quit flying.

In fact, shortly after he retired from DPS on Dec. 31, Knapp accepted a job flying helicopters for a small company in Hawaii that conducts aerial tours of the region's beautiful, breath-taking islands.

Knapp, who recently moved to Hawaii with his wife, said it's the retirement job of his dreams.

The Hawaiian island Knapp provides helicopter tours of is Kauai, a stunning tropical paradise where dozens of movies have been filmed, including "Jurassic Park" and "Seven Days and Seven Nights."

Knapp and his wife, Dana, are renting an apartment on the lush island and say they have plenty of extra room for company.

"My wife and I love to have visitors and we would like to invite anyone from DPS to look us up if they are ever in the area or thinking about coming to the island," Knapp said.

Knapp, who spent time assigned to both Phoenix and Flagstaff during his career at DPS, said he will really miss the people with whom he has worked with at the Department as he embarks on his new endeavor.

He said he will also miss providing valuable services to the public as a pilot with DPS.

As it turns out, DPS and the state of Arizona are also going to miss Knapp.

The father of two grown children and grandfather of five was the recipient of many awards during his years at DPS, including a Meritorious Service Award for his role in the successful execution of extremely dangerous swift-water helicopter rescues.

Knapp piloted DPS helicopters during several such rescues, many of which took place at night and in very isolated areas of the state.

"My favorite type of helicopter missions at DPS were definitely the swift-water rescues," Knapp said. "Such missions could really get a pilot's adrenaline going because of the need to be so precise and in control. The rescues were also usually done in horrible weather conditions and involved removing victims from what was likely going to be certain death."

Besides swift-water rescue missions, Knapp also said he enjoyed flying DPS helicopters during search-and-rescue missions and medical missions.

"I enjoyed participating in any type of mission in which DPS was able to use a he-



JAMES KNAPP

licopter to help somebody or contribute to the well being of the community," Knapp said.

One particular mission that sticks out in Knapp's mind took place a few years ago when he had an opportunity to help transport a young Phoenix woman to Tucson just in the nick of time to receive a life-saving heart transplant.

"DPS dispatchers and Aviation worked closely together to get that young woman to Tucson as fast as we could," Knapp said. "The young woman was stuck in Phoenix rush-hour traffic when the Department received a 9-1-1 call indicating she had only one hour to make it to Tucson to receive her new heart. Tremendous coordination took place to quickly get the woman off of the freeway, into a DPS helicopter, and on her way to Tucson where her life was ultimately saved."

Knapp, who grew up on a farm in Southern Michigan, realized he wanted to fly for a living when he was just a small child.

In fact, he can still remember the exact moment when he was first bitten by the "aviation bug."

"I was outside bailing hay in a large field with my family when this small, single engine airplane flew very low over our heads," Knapp said.

"I was immediately struck by the beauty and power of the aircraft and the freedom it possessed. I don't know why, but from the moment that plane passed over my head, all I have thought about was flying."

As soon as he became old enough, Knapp registered for flying lessons at the county airport near his family's farm.

Then, after successfully learning how to

fly small airplanes, Knapp enlisted in the U.S. Army and eventually was appointed to its helicopter flight school where he learned to fly helicopters.

He quickly mastered the skills needed to fly helicopters and was sent to Vietnam where he flew helicopter missions for the U.S. Army.

After returning safely from Vietnam and finishing his active duty in the military, Knapp settled in Arizona where he learned that an organization called the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) had just started an air rescue unit.

Knapp hoped he could somehow become employed as a helicopter pilot with the new unit because such a job would allow him to stay in Arizona, a place he loved for its beauty, and also would allow him to provide a valuable service to the community.

He submitted his application and completed interviews with DPS and was placed seventh on a list of other helicopter pilots hoping to fly for the agency.

As it turns out, Knapp did not get hired as a pilot with DPS right away because the agency only needed five pilots to start its new Air Rescue Unit.

Instead of waiting around without a job, Knapp accepted a position as a highway patrolman with the agency and was sent to the state's law enforcement academy. He started the academy on Aug. 1, 1973.

Just a week or so before he was scheduled to graduate from the academy, an opening became available in Aviation. Knapp was offered the position.

As a result of the sudden opening in Aviation, Knapp never officially spent anytime "working the road" by himself as a DPS patrolman. However, he did have a chance to patrol Interstate 17 in Phoenix for a couple of weeks with a field training officer just prior to being sent to Aviation.

"My brand new patrol car and my shotgun were taken away from me as soon as the Department learned I was going into Aviation," Knapp said. "It was a little bit sad at the time because I also liked the idea of becoming a patrolman as well as a pilot."

Aviation was Knapp's true dream, though, and he ended up making the very best of his time flying helicopters at DPS.

Looking back on his career as a pilot with the agency, he said he feels honored to have been an official part of the DPS "story" and "legacy" of providing extremely valuable services to the community.

When not flying helicopters, Knapp enjoys hiking, traveling and spending time with his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

Kirchner ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

a Ford F250 truck.

If all needed items had been purchased new by DPS, they would have set the agency back about \$71,000. Instead, all items were acquired for a total cost of about \$11,000, most of which is attributed towards the purchase of the Ford truck.

Kirchner has also saved DPS thousands upon thousands of dollars during his career by helping the agency research and purchase dozens of used vehicles through the General Services Administration (GSA). GSA administers the sale of property no longer needed by the federal government.

As was the case in fiscal year 2003, Kirchner said a variety of slightly used, quality computer equipment can end in State Surplus and become available for purchase by DPS.

He said one reason for this is that some governmental agencies frequently upgrade to new computer equipment just for the sake of having "new" equipment. As a result of such upgrades, the agency sends its quality used "gear" to State Surplus to make way for new equipment.

Other governmental agencies often send good computer equipment to State Surplus, Kirchner said, because they actually perform highly-technical tasks on their computers and frequently require the latest-technological upgrades.

Either way, if quality, late-model computer equipment ends up in State Surplus, it presents great opportunities to DPS, Kirchner said. In October, for example, Kirchner helped officers from the Major Crimes Investigation District obtain four quality, late-model computers from State Surplus for just \$25 a piece. Each computer was still under warranty at the time of purchase.

In addition, three of the computers had active Windows 2000 software licenses which resulted in additional cost savings for DPS. In the end, the computers proved to be more than adequate for the DPS officers who received them.

Besides numerous types of computer equipment, including color printers and scanners, Kirchner has helped DPS find and purchase a variety of other needed items. Some of the other items DPS has purchased from State Surplus include copy machines, refrigerators, microwave ovens, office furniture, electrical supplies, shop testing tools, and several vehicles, including the Department's mail van used in Phoenix.

Although he did not locate and research the item himself, a recent purchase Kirchner



Browsing

Rad Kirchner uses his cell phone on a recent trip to State Surplus while a staff member helps him find used equipment at the facility. Kirchner has been helping DPS locate, research and buy equipment at State Surplus for about the past 15 years.

assisted DPS with involved the procurement of an "aircraft tug" for the Department's Aviation Unit.

Kirchner said the "aircraft tug," which is used to help move DPS aircraft based at its hangar in Phoenix, was purchased for just \$2,500. If purchased new, it likely would have cost the Department around \$30,000.

As a testament that Kirchner likes to save taxpayers money and is not worried about having new equipment, almost every item in his office was purchased through State Surplus, including his desk, computer equipment and chair.

Kirchner, who has single-handedly made DPS one of State Surplus' biggest state agency purchasers of used equipment, has become good friends with the staff at the facility.

The State Surplus staff appreciates his work because he helps them fulfill a goal of trying to get used equipment re-utilized within Arizona government at savings to the taxpayer.

Kirchner became the Department's expert State Surplus "buyer" over the years somewhat because he has had to travel to the facility more than any other DPS employee to conduct regular business involving his position as the Department's Fleet Service manager.

When Kirchner finished conducting vehicle-related business at State Surplus, he would often spot miscellaneous items lying around the facility's warehouse that he knew certain DPS personnel could use to better perform their jobs.

When he discovered just how cheap the

items were, the rest was history and Kirchner quickly became DPS' official eyes and ears at State Surplus, taking requests from agency supervisors and employees who hoped he could find their needed equipment there.

Kirchner said he enjoys his "hobby" of helping DPS save money at State Surplus because there is no financial risk involved for the agency when purchases are made.

"If an agency purchases a piece of equipment from State Surplus and it breaks or does not work properly, the agency can return it to the facility within a reasonable amount of time for a full refund," Kirchner said.

"If an agency can overcome the desire to always purchase brand new equipment, State Surplus can be used to save the agency and taxpayers thousands upon thousands of dollars," said Kirchner, who is planning on retiring from DPS this summer.

When he does leave, it's a safe bet that he'll be taking advantage of every retirement benefit. Just look at his track record; it speaks for itself.

State laws restrict employee purchases

State Surplus has a staff willing to work with individual agencies to help find needed but used items. If an agency has a need for an item, agency staff should contact John Pollpeter, State Surplus customer services manager, 602-542-5701. Pollpeter says he will work with the agency, and if the item is available, arrangements for staff to come in and take a look can be made.

State Surplus can also e-mail digital photos of the item to the requesting agency. Photo faxes can also be sent. For those wanting to visit and browse, the State Surplus warehouse is located at 1537 W. Jackson and is open Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If the facility does not have an item that an agency needs, State Surplus can fill out a "request card" for the item and hold the item for the agency should it ever arrive at the warehouse.

State employees are not allowed to purchase any items for personal use from State Surplus except as a member of the general public during the three public auctions the facility conducts each year.

Even at public auctions, however, state employees may not bid on any item they have directly or indirectly been involved in, including the acquisition, use, maintenance, or disposal of the item.

State employees are also prohibited from previewing any property at the facility they hope to find and purchase at public auction for personal use.

Ruling overturns previous decision

Minnesota judge doesn't support racial-profiling contention

In another judicial victory for DPS, a U.S. District Court judge in Minnesota said evidence presented by the defense did not support its contention that a 2002 traffic stop by a DPS Highway Patrol officer was based on race.

Minnesota U.S. Chief District Judge James M. Rosenbaum also added that the Minnesota man stopped on I-40 near Flagstaff by Officer Jay Hutton had consented verbally and in writing giving the officer permission to search his vehicle.

Therefore, the judge said in his April 21 ruling, the five kilograms of cocaine the officer found in the vehicle can be used as evidence in court.

Rosenbaum's ruling overturned a previous decision by a lower federal court judge in Minnesota who had thrown out the cocaine as evidence, ruling that Robert Will-

iams' constitutional rights had been violated because he was stopped based on his race.

"The outcome was as expected," said Lt. Dan Wells, District 2 commander. "Officer Hutton did not rely on race as a reason to stop or search the vehicle. Officer Hutton acted within established constitutional constraints while conducting a search of suspected drug traffickers."

The incident evolved from a June 10, 2002, traffic stop when Hutton clocked a Suburban traveling 75 mph in a 65-mph zone. During the stop, Williams, the passenger and owner of the vehicle, provided Hutton with verbal and written consent to search the SUV.

The case was filed in federal court in Minnesota where Williams lives. In January, U.S. Magistrate Judge Franklin Noel suppressed the cocaine evidence because he

said Hutton initiated the traffic stop because the driver and passenger were black. Noel also contended that Hutton then falsified a document. The document in question was a warning Hutton completed, inadvertently entering the incorrect race of the driver.

Rosenbaum, however, said that the Suburban had tinted windows that made it problematic whether Officer Hutton could have visually discerned the skin color of the car's occupants, let alone have detained them in accord with some mathematical tendency to racially profile.

When the initial accusation of racial profiling surfaced, Wells said DPS Internal Affairs conducted an investigation of Hutton's actions.

"It was determined the allegations were unfounded as affirmed by Judge Rosenbaum," Wells said.

Martin ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

He held this post for another seven years before earning an appointment to deputy city manager in August 2001, a position he still maintains. As part of his responsibilities, he oversees the police department, Homeland Security and Public Works while coordinating activities within the city's criminal justice system.

Martin, the first DPS retiree to serve on the Merit System Council, says he has always been interested in serving the Department in this capacity.

"I have continually thought that I would be interested in doing this as a way of giving something back to the Department," Martin said. "But, I have remained very busy since retiring from the Department. Consequently, I haven't been able to maintain as close a relationship as I would have liked."

Martin said he started moving toward the LEMSC position shortly after learning about Landau's announcement to seek political office.

"I contacted some friends and told them I would be interested in serving on the council," Martin explained. "A short time later, I received a call from the governor's office confirming my interest."

He said he received his formal notification to serve on the council on April 27.

"This isn't something that I am choosing to do simply on a temporary basis," the former DPS lieutenant colonel explained,

adding that he never was assigned to work with the council while with DPS. "This is something I have had an interest in for a long time. It's also not a secret that I have interests in accepting a second appointment should the opportunity present itself."

Martin said although he has been briefed on various issues facing the council by DPS Cmdr. Coy Johnston, LEMSC business manager, he figures that he will receive further updates when he convenes with Council Chair Gail Goodman and Member Albert Lassen.

"I do understand, however, that a primary challenge is to act in a manner that assures the employee is being treated fairly while at the same time ensuring that management needs are considered with objectivity," said Martin who joined the Highway Patrol when he was 21 years old.

His career in law enforcement began in June 1963 with the Arizona Highway Patrol. His first seven years as a patrolman were spent in Nogales where he was supervised by Capt. Jaime Teyechea whom Martin considers his mentor.

"After seven years, I hated to leave Nogales," Martin revealed. "But, I realized if I was to be promoted, I would have to broaden my experience and professional knowledge."

After Nogales, Martin transferred to Phoenix and participated in the Department's first air rescue helicopter medical program – Air Medical Evacuation System (AMES).

When promoted to sergeant, Martin left

the Phoenix area for Holbrook and later transferred to the Narcotics Division in Phoenix. A promotion to lieutenant took him to Sierra Vista as a district Highway Patrol commander. That assignment was followed by a transfer to Tucson.

Later, he transferred to DPS headquarters where he served as an executive assistant under Director Vern Hoy. Shortly thereafter, Martin promoted to captain and was appointed state narcotics commander.

He then was called upon to serve as acting chief of police in Chandler before promoting to major where he handled legislative liaison functions. His promotion to lieutenant colonel took him to MVD prior to his retirement from DPS.

He is a member of the International City/County Management Association and the American Public Works Association. He also is on the board of directors for the Phoenix Revitalization Corporation. Additionally, he has served on several boards and commissions, including the YMCA and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Martin has a master's degree in public administration from Arizona State University where he also earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He also is a graduate of the FBI Academy.

"I know I go back to the old days of the Highway Patrol, but I am excited to be back and believe I return with a host of valuable experience that will be of tremendous assistance in confronting the current challenges the Merit System Council faces."

Inside DPS

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Garrison, David C., 1536, Officer/Paramedic, Northern Air Rescue

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Manson, Sharon L., 2554, Police Communications Supervisor

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bryant, Lena, 3365, ACJIS Specialist/Instructor

Hall, Barbara A., 3382, Office Coordinator

Kalar, Kim A., 3353, Evidence Custodian

Oathout, Cheryl K., 3358, Criminal Intelligence Analyst

Thompson, David L., 3360, Officer

RETIRING

Feingold, Edward D., 4148, Criminal Analyst Supervisor, 15 years

Kostelnik, John E., 3396, Sergeant II, 19 years

Leal, Jesus V., 1853, Sergeant II, 28 years

Snider de Aguilera, Sandra, 2889, Sergeant II, 23 years

Troutt, Cheryl A., 3313, Officer, 20 years

NEW EMPLOYEES

Acosta, Benjamin, 6360, Cadet Officer

Bailey, Michael D., 6377, Cadet Officer

Cesolini, David R., 6190, Cadet Officer

Dechant, Penny J., 6351, Criminalist I

Feigley, Jeremy L., 6362, Cadet Officer

Ferguson, T. Travis, 6363, Cadet Officer

Forry, Robert M., 6352, AZPOST Program Administrator

Hagen, Deshaun W., 6365, Cadet Officer

Heath, Lorraine E., 6353, Criminalist I

Hillenbrand, Brian C., 6374, Cadet Officer

Johnson, David T., 6364, Cadet Officer

Lenhardt, Jason P., 6361, Cadet Officer

Lentz, Christopher M., 6366, Cadet Officer

Lepovetsky, Shari J., 6373, Cadet Officer

McCann, P.T., 475, Security Officer

Moore, Philip L., 6367, Cadet Officer

Olesky, Andrew T., 6368, Cadet Officer

Reyes, Jesus, 6375, Cadet Officer

Richardson, Darrell G., 6378, Cadet Officer

Rogers, Clarence E., 6369, Cadet Officer

Skwartz, Ronald J., 6354, Criminalist I

Sproule, Mary E., 6356, Police Communications Dispatcher

Thomas, Michael W., 6370, Cadet Officer

Williams, Daniel A., 6371, Cadet Officer

Willis, William C., 6372, Cadet Officer

DEPARTURES

Cozad, Brandon J., 5919, Officer

Evans, Jermaine R., 6047, Officer

Forbrook, Michael J., 5552, Officer

McKenzie, Ryan M., 6259, Officer

Mulligan, Christopher E., 6375, Officer

Nielson, Rex A., 4420, Officer

Piña, Ernie C., 5296, Officer

BIRTHS

Addison Jean Harrolle – 7 lbs., 18½ inches. Born April 7 at Banner Desert Medical Center, Mesa, to Officer Bruce Harrolle and wife, Angela. Bruce is a paramedic assigned to Southern Air Rescue, Tucson.



Who Are They?

Let's make it a little easier this month. Don't worry about the small tyke in the middle. Concentrate on the little girl on the left and the young boy on the right. Although they were close friends as youngsters, they didn't grow up to be husband and wife. However, both later became officers at DPS.

Identify either one correctly and you will be eligible to win a polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge number 3131.

Internet entries should be sent to acoughanour@dps.state.az.us.

Interdepartmental mail should go to The Digest, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

April Winner

Rod Covey and Lynda Schallmann of the Agency Support Division teamed up to correctly identify the smiling little girl as Diane Plein of Human Resources. Their entry was among five correct submissions. For their effort, they receive a polo shirt courtesy of the AHPA.

Vests ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

visional Authority (CPA)," Young said. "The CPA put me in touch with a general who told me that he really couldn't stop me from sending the vests, but that the military personnel would not be allowed to use the body armor and that it wouldn't be distributed to U.S. soldiers."

Such a disheartening setback, however, didn't stop the persistent former narcotics sergeant. While developing this project, Young began to receive information that Iraqi military and police personnel were extremely poorly equipped.

"I then wrote (retired DPS Lt. Col.) Larry Thompson seeking help from the Coalition of DPS Retirees," Young said. "Larry put the information out to DPS retirees that I was seeking body armor. My brother, Ryan, a sergeant in the Criminal Investigations Division, distributed information to DPS employees requesting the vests."

As luck would have it, the Internet eventually provided an answer to how Young was going to overcome the task of getting the vests into Iraq even though the U.S. military had no use for them.

"After another son, Josh, and I made a few speaking engagements, mostly to any one who would listen in the Tucson area, I received a call from Mike Harris, a Fresno, Calif., homicide detective who is president of the Fresno Police Officers Association," Young said.

Harris told Young that he had heard that the retired DPS officer had some vests waiting to find their way to Iraq.

"He then told me that his group could use them and that he had a way to get the vests into Iraq," Young said. "He also told me that he had gone through the same bureaucratic difficulties that I had."

Harris said his association's involvement started when two Fresno police officers were called into active military duty and sent to Iraq to train Iraqi police officers in and around the Al Anbar province, including the cities of Ba'qubah and Ar-ramadi which is near Fallujah.

Harris also told Young that while the two reserves were there, three of their Iraqi trainees were hit by an improvised ordnance explosive device (IED), killing two of them and seriously wounding the third. Body armor, the Fresno reserves told Harris, probably would have spared the lives of the two who were killed.

That's when the Fresno Police Officers Association learned that Iraqi soldiers and police had so very little in regards to equipment, the same thing Young learned later.



FROM LEFT: FRESNO POLICE DETECTIVE MIKE HARRIS, BONNIE STROUCKEL, JOSH YOUNG

"These poor guys over there are fighting with very little – no radios, no Kevlar, no batons, no helmets," Young said. "Most Iraqi policemen had been issued Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistols and 30 rounds of ammunition," Young said. "Needless to say they were outgunned with no reliable means of communication and very little gasoline for their vehicles."

Harris assured Young that Iraqi police could use any equipment it could obtain and that the DPS vests would be put to good use. So an agreement was struck allowing the DPS vests to be shipped to Iraq through a working agreement Harris had with the U.S. Marines Corps' 1st Expeditionary Force.

Eventually, Young, with help from the Coalition of DPS Retirees, collected 119 vests. Young's mother-in-law, Bonnie Strouckel, and Josh drove the vests to Fresno for delivery. Young was unable to make the trip after undergoing knee replacement surgery.

The Marines then flew the vests, along with other equipment raised by Harris' group, to Kuwait. Once in Kuwait, the equipment was transported by another plane to Ba'qubah. This last leg of the journey drew attention from some insurgent ground air missiles, Young said.

Young was told that at first, Iraqi police officers were skeptical about the quality of the vests. Although Harris assured them that the vests were safe, it took an on-site demonstration to convince them.

"Mike (Harris) told me that he took his 'outdated' vest off, placed it on a sheet of plywood and shot the vest nine or 10 times," Young said. "Then an Iraqi shot it a couple of times with a .45-caliber weapon. Not one bullet penetrated through the vest. Needless to say, the Iraqi police started using them."

Another vote of confidence came within 10 days after delivery when an IED exploded

within a group of Iraqi police officers wearing vests donated by DPS officers and retirees.

"The IED shredded the DPS vests worn by the Iraqi policemen, but their lives were spared as they suffered only minor injuries," Young said. "It's stories like these that makes the effort worth it."

In showing their appreciation toward the city of Fresno, Young said Ba'qubah city leaders sent a resolution to the California city.

"The document number of the resolution is 000001, making it the first democratically-signed document in Iraq's pursuit toward democracy," the retired DPS sergeant said.

As for Young, his mission is not coming to a rest. Shortly after the 119 vests were sent to Fresno, he collected another 15. He says he will continue to collect equipment and now has an agreement with the Fresno police association that will have members meet Young halfway between Fresno and Tucson to collect the equipment.

"It's a good feeling to be involved," Young explained. "I am too old, too fat and broke up. I have had two back surgeries and four knee surgeries. They don't need me in Iraq. I just think everybody should find something to do that supports our soldiers in Iraq."

"I also couldn't be more proud my wife Karyl, my brother Ryan, my son Josh, and my mother-in-law Bonnie. They have worked tirelessly in this project."

It's a mission that Young says will keep him constantly busy. There's more to the payoff than pride. It's a patriotic endeavor which helps him escape the reality that his son and "adopted" son are in harm's way on a much too frequent basis. He also knows that one of those DPS vests could be on an Iraqi officer who could be fighting side by side with one of his loved ones.

For Young, that's a gratifying feeling.

DPS bus ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spected company was very encouraging for DPS because motorcoach companies typically charge more than \$200,000 a year to carry advertising on their vehicles.

Bonin, who had done business with Arrow Stage Lines in the past during a DPS-sponsored conference, discovered the company's willingness to assist with the agency's recruiting efforts when he contacted them about advertising possibilities.

After Arrow Stage Lines made the commitment to donate the use of a vehicle to DPS, two other companies, Space-Rite Industries and CSI graphics, jumped on board to help equip the vehicle with DPS' recruiting message and accompanying graphics.

In the end, all DPS had to pay to get the motorcoach on the road with its message and graphics was about \$2,000.

That relatively small amount of money was used to purchase vinyl wrapping material needed as an artistic medium for placing DPS' graphics and text onto the motorcoach.

Arrow Stage Lines Management told Bonin that DPS can keep its message on the bus for as long as it feels necessary.

Several law enforcement agencies have placed recruiting messages on city buses in the past, but it is unknown if any law enforcement agency in the country, other than DPS, has ever placed such messages on a charter bus that regularly crosses state borders.

Bonin estimates that the generous contributions of the three companies who helped make DPS' traveling billboard a reality saved the agency about \$250,000 a year in advertising costs and materials.

"It can cost as much as \$600 a day to advertise on a motorcoach or other large vehicle considering all of the various costs involved," Bonin said. "DPS is getting this extremely expensive and effective form of advertising for free. We truly appreciate the support of the companies who helped make such advertising a reality for us. Without the support of these companies, this would not have been possible for DPS."

Editor's Note:

Shortly after Digest deadline, Arrow Stage lines announced it was going to donate the use of an additional motorcoach to DPS to further assist DPS recruiting efforts. Once completed within the next few months, the additional motorcoach will look identical to the first. Space Rite Industries and CSI graphics will also be assisting with the second motorcoach.



Working for tips

Highway Patrol Officer John Petculescu serves up a strawberry milkshake while serving as a waiter at the Claim Jumper restaurant in north Phoenix. Several Highway Patrol officers served as waiters and waitresses at both Claim Jumpers restaurants in the Phoenix-area April 29 as part of the "Tip-a-Cop" fund-raiser for Special Olympics. DPS officers working at both restaurants collected more than \$3,500 in tips during the event. The tips went to Special Olympics as part of the Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run.

DPS at a Glance

DPS Director Dennis Garrett presented Detective Fermin Torrez with the National Latino Peace Officers Association Community Service Award.

Garrett made the presentation during the May 4 Executive Staff meeting. Garrett said the Phoenix-based detective was honored for his dedication to duty and his involvement with the Arizona Recreation Center for physically and emotionally disabled children. The award also recognized Torrez for contributions as an assistant wrestling coach at Sunnyslope High School.

The EEO/AA office has moved into the Training and Management Services Bureau from Human Resources. TMSB is located on the second floor. The phone number for Terri Laurel, EEO/AA coordinator, remains 602-223-2397.

In mid-May, Kellie Geyer was appointed the attorney general assigned to DPS, replacing Lisa Stelly-Wahlin and Dennis Carpenter.

Office hours for Geyer are 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. Geyer may be contacted at 602-542-1639 (e-mail kgeyer@ag.state.az.us). Her DPS office is located on the second floor of the

headquarters building in suite 262 (Ext. 2406).

Stelly-Wahlin was reassigned to handle civil cases for the Attorney General's Office while Carpenter left the AG's office to accept a position with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

Fred Heggstad, a Williams-based commercial vehicle safety specialist whose March 23 traffic stop led to a \$1.1 million cash seizure, has been nominated for a national award offered by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

DPS Lt. Bernie Gazdzik said that Heggstad's traffic stop and successful search was submitted for a Looking Beyond the License Plate Award offered by the IACP.

Heggstad was nominated for the award for his actions during a traffic stop of what appeared to be a commercial vehicle hauling three previously-owned vehicles.

During the stop, Heggstad arrested the subject on an outstanding warrant and then began organizing the search of the man's vehicle and trailer.

Eventually, Heggstad and fellow DPS officers found slightly more than \$1.1 million in cash inside the vehicle and within the railings of the trailer.

Two experienced lieutenants leave department to head other agencies

Two lieutenants with more than 61 years of combined service with DPS recently left the agency to accept full-time positions with other organizations.

One was Wendell Grasee, a 35-year DPS veteran who left the agency earlier this spring to become chief of police at the Capitol Police Department.

Grasee's appointment is part of an inter-governmental agreement that allows Grasee to remain with DPS as a lieutenant until he officially retires from the Department within the next two years.

The Capitol Police Department is a division within the state Department of Administration (DOA) that mainly provides security and police services at the state capitol complex.

Capitol Police, headquartered in the basement of the state capitol, also operates a communications center that monitors activities in and around state buildings in Phoenix and Tucson.

Grasee's last assignment at DPS before accepting his new post was in Internal Affairs.

The other lieutenant to leave is Terry Azbill, a 26-year DPS veteran who left the agency in April to accept a position as the executive director for the Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in El Paso.

Azbill's new job, along with the entire HIDTA program, operates under the direction of the executive office of the U.S. President and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Azbill's last DPS assignment was within the Criminal Investigations Division in Tucson.

As a result of his new post, Azbill is now one of several key executive directors within the national HIDTA program that was created several years ago to enhance and coordinate drug control efforts among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

20-pound meth bust

DPS Canine Officer John McFarland arrested one suspect on narcotics violations following an I-17 traffic stop May 18 near Cordes Junction.

During the stop, McFarland had his canine, Angel, conduct a walk 'n sniff. After the dog alerted, McFarland initiated a search and found 20 pounds of methamphetamine inside the rear door jam of the vehicle.

McFarland also seized the vehicle, contraband and \$5,255 in cash.

\$300,000 seized

It proved to be a costly traffic stop for this motorist, something in the neighborhood of \$300,000.

DPS Canine Officer Robert Telles told the Duty Office that he stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation May 18 on I-10 near Marana. During the stop, Telles led his canine, Gizmo, through a walk 'n sniff. After Gizmo alerted, Telles found \$299,030 in the vehicle. Telles seized the money, arrested the driver and had the car returned its rental company.

Down the Highways

June 1959

A makeshift bus carrying farm laborers crashed into a tree at 120 E. Baseline, Phoenix, killing 16. Some 32 other workers escaped from the burning wreckage. The 16 killed remains second highest in state history. In January 1944, 28 servicemen were killed when a bus and train collided near Kingman.

June 1964

The Arizona Highway Patrol accepted delivery of a leased Lincoln Continental. The car will be used as the governor's official car, Patrol Supt. Gregory O. Hathaway said. The vehicle was leased from the Ford Motor Co. for \$65 a month, Hathaway said.

June 1969

Arizona Highway Patrolman Paul E. Marston, Badge No. 138, was fatally wounded by prison escapee Danny Lee Eckard during a gun battle on a farm near Chino Valley June 9. Eckard, dubbed the Desert Fox by the state's media, was shot and killed during the shootout by Patrolman Ron Mayes. Patrolman Marston was the second AHP patrolman to die in the line of duty.

June 1979

DPS Officers Ken Barton and David Sanchez were selected to serve on the multi-agency Arizona Cooperative Investigative

Team. On June 11, the team met to study who on the outside assisted Gary Tison and Randy Greenawalt during their prison escape in July 1978.

June 1984

Tucson-based DPS Officer Anthony C. Dees was credited with saving the lives of four people he pulled to safety from an area threatened by a burning 1976 Pontiac that had overturned on Interstate 10 near Firebird Lake June 1.

Dees was returning to Tucson from Phoenix when he witnessed the rollover which ejected five people, including a year-old baby girl who was killed. After reaching the vehicle, Dees pulled the driver and three passengers from the car. While carrying two injured boys from the vehicle to his patrol car, Dees noticed four more people and the baby had been ejected during the rollover.

At about that time, the car erupted in flames. Dees raced back and with the help of two other men, moved the injured away from the burning vehicle. Investigators said that action saved the lives of four adults who were ejected.

June 1989

DPS Officer Art Levario received the Department's Valor Award from DPS Director Ralph Milstead during ceremonies June

7 in Phoenix. Levario's award stemmed from a Sept. 7, 1988, incident in Ehrenberg.

While working in the area, Levario saw a commercial vehicle burst into flames. The vehicle contained hazardous waste and began emitting a poisonous cloud of chlorine gas. Since there was not time to evacuate the small western Arizona community, Levario drove the burning vehicle to a safe location.

June 1994

DPS Highway Patrol officer Bill Reno was critically injured June 20 when struck by a car, only minutes before he was about to leave the scene of a car fire he had investigated.

Reno, a Tempe resident assigned to District 13, lost the lower part of his left leg in the Monday morning crash on U.S. 60 about two miles east of Apache Junction.

Reno was taken by Air Evac to St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.

Reno, investigators said, was closing the trunk lid on his 1991 Crown Victoria patrol car when struck from behind by a 1993 Chevrolet Camaro.

Reno's car was parked facing east in the right lane of the two-lane highway near Gold Canyon ranch resort. At the time of his crash, Reno's emergency lights were activated.